

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 6, 23, 45-46, and 48-49 are amended. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (e.g., page 10, lines 21-24; page 22, Abstract), drawings (e.g., FIGS. 3-7), and claims and thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 4, 6-7, 10-12, 15-16, 18-31, 33-40, 42, and 44-49 are pending.

Drawings Objections

The Office Action states at paragraph 2, page 3:

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.839(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the limitation of "...retransmitting a second subportion of the transmission unit with an extended header information..." must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Replacement drawing sheets 1-6 and drawing sheet 7 submitted herewith include the above-mentioned limitation. Support for drawing sheet 7 can be found throughout the Detailed Description (e.g. paragraphs 6-9, 21, and 35) and the Abstract. Approval and entry of the replacement drawing sheets 1-6 and the drawing sheet 7 is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4, 6-7, 10-12, 15-16, 18-31, 33-40, 42 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action states that “the specification does not teach the limitation of ‘...retransmitting a first subportion of a transmission unit and replacing a second subportion of the transmission unit with an extended header information...’” This rejection is respectfully, but most strenuously, traversed.

The claims have been amended to recite a “first portion” instead of a “first subportion.” The claims have also been amended to recite a “second portion” instead of a “second subportion.” One or more examples of retransmitting the first portion of the transmission unit and replacing the second portion of the transmission unit with the extended header information are described in the specification:

Page 10, lines 21-24:

The coded short MAC header 400, which is 76 bits, is augmented (STEP 822) by 53 bits to get the coded extended MAC header formats. The additional 53 bits are obtained by dropping (STEP 820) one coded sub-block from the first TU in the a set of four GSM bursts carrying retransmissions.

Page 14, paragraph 36 (currently amended, described above):

A system and method is provided for communicating in a wireless communication system which supports link adaptation or link adaptation and incremental redundancy. The invention provides link adaptation at multiple code rate by dividing fixed length RLC blocks 104 into coded sub-blocks (" C_{ij} "; STEP 806). CRC code 106 may be appended to the RLC blocks 104 for error detection (STEP 804). The sub-blocks C_{ij} are then grouped into transmission units P_{ik} for transmission (STEP 808). The number of sub-blocks C_{ij} in each group is varied to provide multiple code rates. Headers 400 are used to identify the transmission units being transmitted. In the case of retransmission, the transmission units may be expressly identified through extended headers 412, 418, 426, 428, 438, 500, 502, 504, and/or 506. One or more of the originally transmitted sub-blocks C_{ij} are dropped (STEP 820) and replaced (STEP 822) by the extended headers 412, 418, 426, 428, 438, 500, 502, 504, and/or 506 in the retransmission. Accordingly, the present invention provides for a retransmission code rate which may be different from the code rate at which the transmission units were originally transmitted.

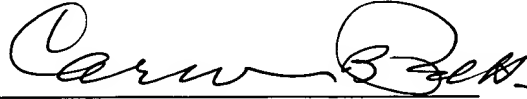
Page 22, Abstract:

A system and method is provided for communicating in a wireless communication system which supports link adaptation or link adaptation and incremental redundancy. The invention provides link adaptation at multiple code rate by dividing fixed length RLC blocks into coded sub-blocks. CRC code may be appended to the RLC blocks for error detection. The sub-blocks are then grouped into transmission units for transmission. The number of sub-blocks in each group is varied to provide multiple code rates. Headers are used to identify the transmission units being transmitted. In the case of retransmission, the transmission units may be expressly identified through extended headers. One or more of the originally transmitted sub-blocks are dropped and replaced by the extended headers in the retransmission. Accordingly, the present invention provides for a retransmission code rate which may be different from the code rate at which the transmission units were originally transmitted.

Withdrawal of the §112 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carmen B. Patti', written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: October 12, 2004

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